

Message Text

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43

ACTION SY-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 ST-01 /012 W

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R 012114Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4624

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 9304

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, AFSP, MX

SUBJ: PROPOSED SECURITY VEHICLE

REF: STATE 238735

1. BEFORE REACHING FINAL DECISION ON COM VEHICLE, EMBASSY WISHES TO BE ASSURED ON TECHNICAL POINT. WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT EFFECTIVENESS OF 440 CID 4 BBL POWER PLANT PUSHING 6100 LB. VEHICLE AT 7500 FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL. OUR EXPERIENCE WITH LIGHT-ARMORED LINCOLN CONTINENTALS (FIRST AT 1970 AND NOW A BRAND NEW 1974) EQUIPPED WITH 460 CID 4 BBL PLANTS IS THAT THERE IS AN IMMEDIATE 25 PERCENT DROP IN POWER OUTPUT AS WITH OTHER INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINES AT THIS ALTITUDE. WE NOTE PARA. 2 REFTTEL ADDRESSES HIGH SPEED LANE SHIFTS AND MANEUVERABILITY ON HIGHWAYS AND MOUNTAIN ROADS. MEXICO USE PATTERN EMPHASIZES URBAN DRIVING ON RELATIVELY CROWDED STREETS, WHERE QUICK ACCELERATION IN MID-RANGES (25 TO 45 MPH) IS OF KEY IMPORTANCE IN NORMAL DRIVING. THIS CAPABILITY WOULD BECOME CRUCIAL IF NEED FOR EVASIVE TACTICS WERE TO ARISE. IN CASE OF LINCOLN, WITH LARGER POWER PLANT THAN CHRYSLER AND ABOUT 1,000 LBS. LESS WEIGHT, WE HAVE ALREADY OBSERVED DEGRADATION OF THIS ABILITY, EVEN WITH SPECIAL TUNE FOR HIGH ALTITUDE.

2. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD LIKE SY'S EVALUATION AND COMMENTS ON POWER/WEIGHT/PERFORMANCE ISSUE. WE NEED TO KNOW WHETHER CHIEF OF MISSION'S SECURITY WOULD BE ENHANCED MORE BY SHIFTING TO CHRYSLER OR KEEPING LINCOLN WE ALREADY HAVE.

3. FYI: WE DO NOT INTEND ADDRESS POSSIBLE IMPORTATION DIFFICULTIES
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UNTIL DECISION ON SUITABILITY IS REACHED. END FYI.

JOVA

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